the Lions' Pride

Of Saint Leo University

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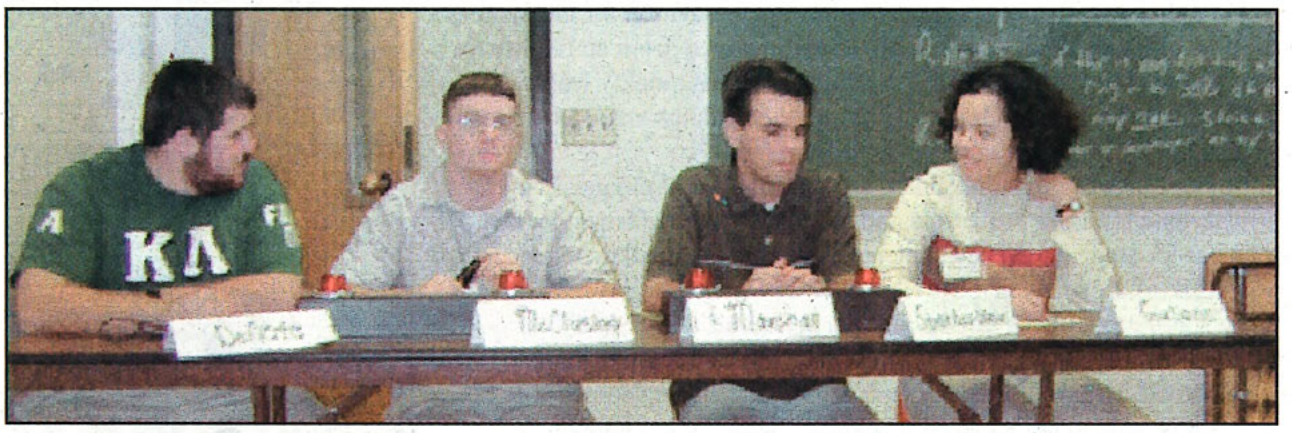


From Left to Right - Mark Denote, Rich McCluskey, Sean Marshall, and Barbara Giuliano, sit in action answering several questions. (Jay Kubica/SLU)

Southern Regional College Bowl Tournament results

Saint Leo opens a can of "whoop-ass."

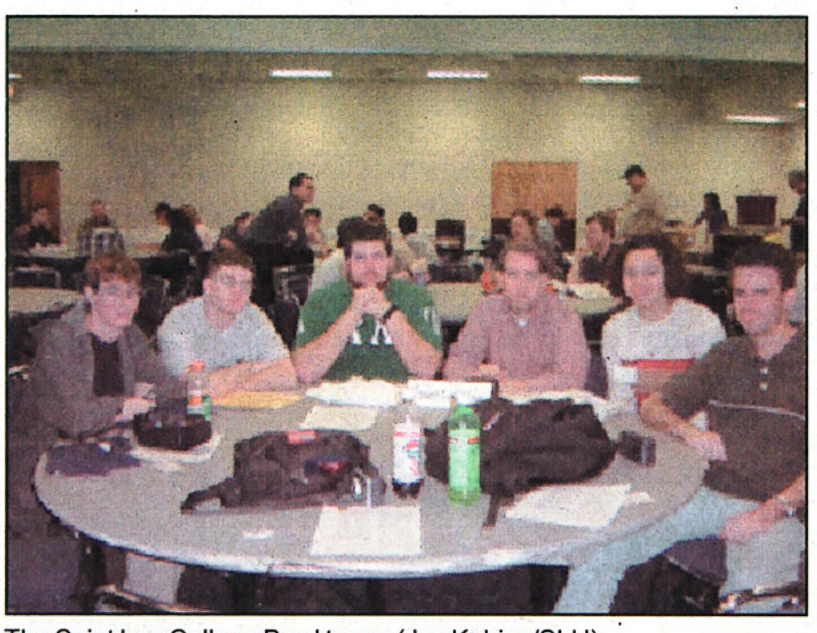
by Jay Kubica
Lions' Pride Co-Editor

SAINT LEO - "Now they all know that Saint Leo is the patron saint of ass-kicking!" Mark DeNote proclaimed after Saint Leo University's return from the Southern Regional College Bowl Tournament held at Auburn University in Montgomery, Alabama.

On February 15 and 16, the Saint Leo College Bowl Team, consisting of Captain Sean Marshall, Barbara Giuliano, Rich McCluskey, Mark DeNote, and Jay Kubica competed in the tournament against 16 southern universities and colleges. Dr. Kevin Kieffer, associate professor of psychology and coach of the team, accompanied them.

"Our 2002 College Bowl Team performed magnificently in their first regional intercollegiate competition, and for a first effort and two weeks of preparation, I could not have hoped for a better outcome," Kieffer commented.

Final results placed Saint Leo in seventh place, right behind giant state schools such as University of Florida and Georgia State University. "When I consider the resources (e.g., thousands and thousands of students) that many of the top five schools (e.g., UF, Georgia, FSU) have at their disposal, I am even more impressed with the performance, maturity and intellectual capability of our team," Kieffer stated.



The Saint Leo College Bowl team. (Jay Kubica/SLU)

The tournament was divided into two days, which consisted of constant competition between the 17 schools involved. In the end, Saint Leo's record was 9 wins and 7 losses. Saint Leo dominated the Tampa Bay region by defeating schools such as The University of South Florida, University of Tampa, and Stetson. Team Captain Sean Marshall was distinguished for his efforts by being award the Team's Most Valuable Player Award.

Members of the College Bowl team found the experience to be extremely enjoyable.

"It was a lot of fun," DeNote said. He added, "Aside from FSU, everyone was real nice. It was nice to compete with them."

Prospects for next year's College Bowl are strong. "We have the ability to place in the top three," DeNote stated.

"I am excited that I will be able to retain four of the five players for next year (Rich McCluskey will be graduating.), and I am in the process of recruiting a player who is well-versed in the natural sciences, a definite weakness in our team," Kieffer said.

"I have already met with the team to begin planning and practicing for next year, and I am already extremely excited about the prospect of competing with this group again next year," he added.

Students interested in being part of the College Bowl experience should contact Dr. Kevin Kieffer at extension 8306 or Jessica Williams at extension 8942.

Opinions

EDITORIALS

We are family

Family does not necessarily mean there is a blood relation between people.

by Allison Myatt
Lions' Pride Co-Editor

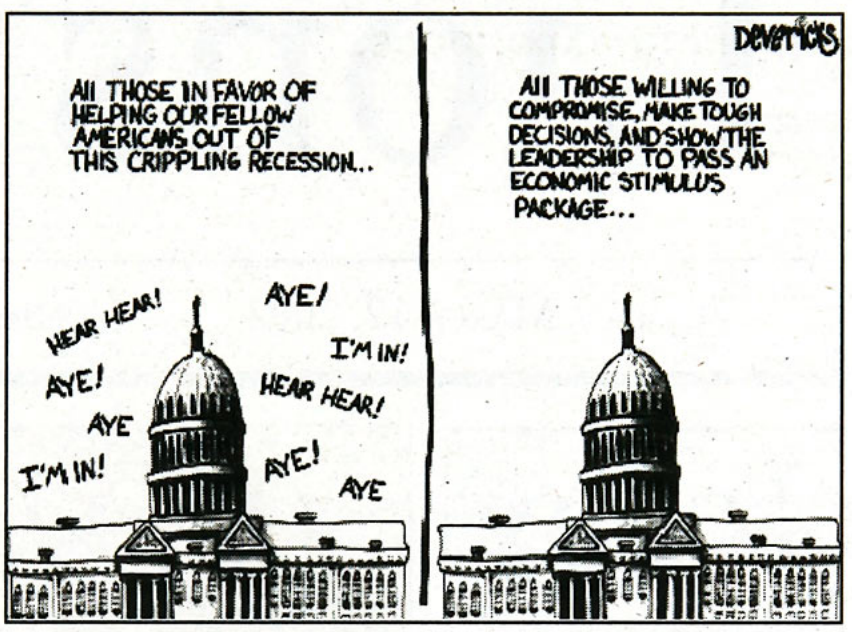
Students enroll in college to either form a foundation for their career or some other personal reason such, as getting away from an old life to start a new one. Either way, the one thing students quickly learn when they come to Saint Leo University is that the students are as close as a small family.

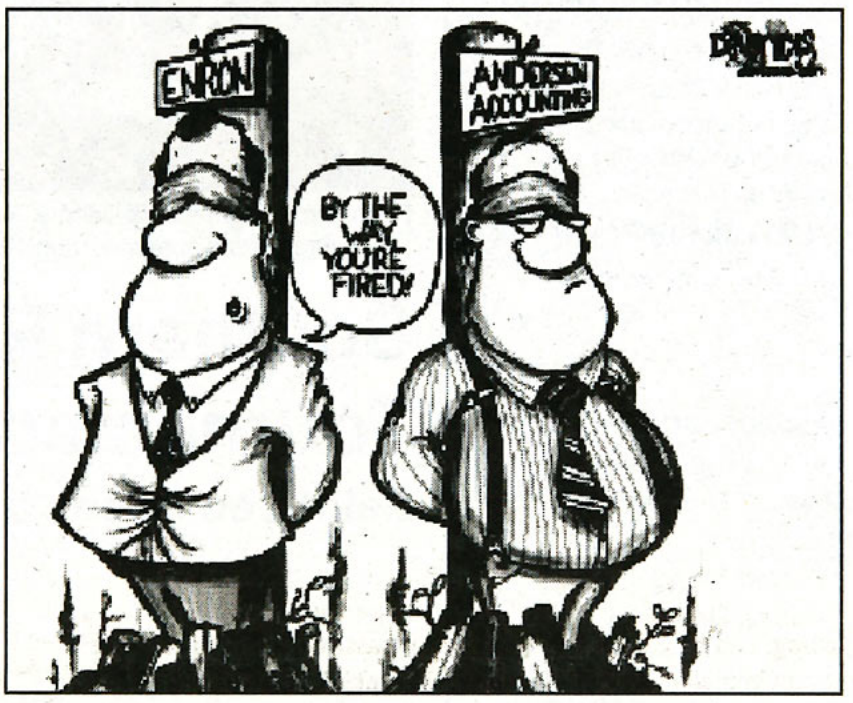
Saint Leo's family atmosphere consists of several things. The primary one is caring professors and administrative staff members who look out for students. When students have a problem, all they need to do is talk to a professor or their career advisor. The professors understand most of the situations that arise and will "bend over backwards" to help the student return to a "normal" school day.

Granted, all professors and staff are not the same. Some professors may not be able to help a student because they may not know how. Rest assured though, someone on this campus will be able to help.

As in many families, Saint Leo students often behave like siblings. Students argue, laugh, cry, yet, at the same time, get together and help each other if needed, e.g., if a student needs a ride to the store, another student will offer to drive him or her there. If another student needs help on homework, there is always someone in class who is willing to help him or her or they can go to the Learning Resource Center and receive help from the friendly professional tutors, as well as the peer tutors.

Family does not necessarily mean there is a blood relation between people. Family provides help for people who are struggling, care when someone is hurt, and even work together in challenging situations. A family bond strengthens with time. Students, professors, and staff are family because they can be relied on in good times and bad.





News takes a backseat

Staff Editorial
The Spinnaker (U. North Florida)

(U-WIRE) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Entertainment supersedes news once again. Executives at the ABC television network opened negotiations with David Letterman last week to move his highly acclaimed late-night variety show to their network from CBS, Letterman's home since 1993.

If the "Late Show with David Letterman" was to switch networks, that would leave Ted Koppel and his venerable newsmagazine "Nightline" out in the cold. That's not to say Letterman's show is without merit; nor is entertainment as a whole. Entertainment is certainly a good thing.

However, when the corporate execs choose the money-making potential of an entertainment program in place of an expensive news program, more than the financial bottom line must be considered.

"Nightline" is one of the last holdouts of true broadcast journalism and to kill the program to woo late-night viewers would be a mistake, plain and simple. Most television news programs already straddle an ever-fading line between information and entertainment, creating their own genre of info-tainment to attract an audience.

The reality is that programs such as "Nightline" that strive to present stories to the public that are important and informative are becoming an extinct species. "Nightline" is a news program in the traditional sense and Koppel a journalist before a broadcaster. Letterman deserves a tremendous amount of respect in his own right. His show has won the Emmy for best comedy-variety show for four consecutive years and continues to receive critical acclaim.

But it hardly seems proper to replace an important source of news and information with a variety show simply because ABC's top management wants to boost its late-night ratings.

This may be a naïve approach. Certainly television networks, like any other businesses, have concerns for their financial well-being. However, they exist for a higher purpose, one that was once stipulated by the Federal Communications Commission. They must serve the public interest and necessity, and "Nightline" definitely accomplishes both of those goals.

If ABC does triumph over CBS and the "Late Show" switches networks, perhaps "Nightline" can stay around in a different time slot. The show could become similar to "Dateline NBC," with one or more time slots throughout the week. The public has an appetite for newsmagazines. At least half a dozen air every week. Let's not throw away one of the most revered and well executed of these shows. If the "Late Show" takes over, this cannot be the end of the line for "Nightline."

WRITE HERE

Send letters to the editor and guest columns to the Lion's Pride newsroom, Saint Edward's Hall, English Department. Or, send your letter/column by e-mail to monarch@saintleo.com

Letters and columns must be submitted with student's name, year and major. Faculty & staff members must include rank and department.

Please include a phone number (not for publication) so we can verify authorship. All letters and columns are subject to editing. The Lion's Pride reserves the right not to publish any letter or column.

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School of Business Gets New Dean

Dr. Tom Zimmerer brings 30 years of academic and consulting experience.

By Stephen L. Baglione
Faculty Member

SAINTLEO - Over his 30 year academic career, Dr. Tom Zimmerer founded an "Emerging Technology Development and Marketing Center" at Clemson University, consulted with over 100 businesses, universities, and trade associations, taught over a thousand students, published over 175 academic articles, and served as assistant to the president of a university. East Tennessee State lured him from Clemson by rewarding him with an endowed chair for "Excellence in Business." During this time, he co-wrote the leading textbook on entrepreneurship. He is also an expert in strategic management. His students at two different universities have voted him outstanding teacher.

Zimmerer was born in Missouri. He attended The American University in Washington D.C. and majored in management and economics. He received his master's degree in economics the following year. Two years at McDonnell Aircraft Corporation did not extinguish his love of teaching, and he entered the Ph.D. program immediately. His doctorate is from the University of Arkansas in management. He began his full-time teaching career at Florida Atlantic University.

His administration career began from a conversation. After discussing with his wife an administrator's inability to complete a task, she challenged him to improve it by becoming an administrator. He did. Drury University in Missouri hired

Dr. Tom Zimmerer

Zimmerer as director of their school of business. And it was only the vast opportunities at Saint Leo that led him to leave.

"The school is sitting on an opportunity to be world renowned, to have a global reach. It's already the third largest provider of classes offered through the Internet," he said.

Zimmerer believes the School of Business will be "the driving force" for the university to achieve its international goals.

The school's Benedictine tradition also attracted Zimmerer.

"It really does work. A thousand years of success has proven that," he said.

Through it all, Zimmerer never stops learning.

"I've never had a class that I did not learn a lot from," he said.

In fact, Zimmerer claims to have never taught the same class the same way throughout his 33 year career. This continues today in his Organizational Behavior class in the Master's of Business Administration program this semester.

According to one of his students, he is "a high energy professor and with a high energy class."

That energy carries over to his administrative responsibilities. In his brief tenure at Saint Leo, he has started an On-Line MBA program, hired new faculty members, will start a business training program for clergy this summer, and entered into negotiations with two organizations to provide degree completion programs. The business community has sought his expertise to speak to practitioner organizations.

And, with a daughter in college, he can easily relate to the demands of college life. For Zimmerer, Saint Leo will be the last stop on an illustrious career.

A Walking Campus

The transformation to a walking campus will bring changes for everyone.

by Jennifer Taliani
Special to Lions' Pride

SAINTLEO - Parking at Saint Leo University has been a growing problem over the years and officials, who are aware of the problem, offer some astonishing answers.

Officer Robert Beasley reported that there was in fact a reason for the diminishing parking. He commented that as long as he has been working for Saint Leo, he has witnessed the effects of the lessening of available spaces.

"That area in front of the McDonald's Center used to have many more spaces in the previous years that I worked for this school," Beasley said.

What is the reason to further deplete the amount of available parking spaces? Officer Beasley shed some light on that subject, as well.

Apparently President Dr. Arthur Kirk and Vice President Frank Mezzanini, have decided to gradually transform Saint Leo into a walking campus.

This means a big change for students and faculty. It means that all will have to arrive at campus earlier to fight for use at a future parking garage, which could be more than a quarter mile away or even farther. Will Saint Leo provide trolleys to transport students and faculty when bad weather arises? This was not made clear.

A walking campus does not affect the upper classmen in the ways it does freshmen and commuters.

"That would be ridiculous," freshman, Katye Kalavodia, exclaimed after hearing the news about a transformation on campus. She was astonished upon hearing that such efforts were being made.

The current freshmen will probably have graduated from the University when the plans have been carried out, but they do not like the idea. The walk down the hills that lead from the freshman dorms to the main campus is a long and grueling track. It would be especially difficult early in the morning, and in windy, rainy weather that is typical of the Florida climate.

For commuting students, who do not live on campus, this means having to leave home even earlier to arrive on time for classes. The already annoying parking problem will become even more irritating as plans continue and further limitation of parking spaces develops.

As for Beasley and the other officers distributing the tickets, they report they are only doing their jobs. This is true, and many also do not want to see Saint Leo transform into a walking campus.

Students and faculty are struck with disbelief and do not wish to witness the effects of less available parking. The leading forces behind the changes are Kirk and Mezzanini.

March Horoscopes

by Janet Samancioglu
and Kelley Touchton

Aquarius (Jan.20-Feb.17)
Don't walk on grass.

Pisces (Feb. 18- March 19)
Eat only apples on Wednesday.

Aries (March 20- April 19)
Hop and skip to class in the morning. (Literally)

Taurus (April 20- May 19)
You can only watch the home shopping network on Monday.

Gemini (May 20- June 20)
Don't go to the pool today, you may get water in your ear.

Cancer (June 21- July 21)
When drinking milk, use a straw, so you won't get a milk mustache.

Leo (July 22- Aug. 22)
Watch Jerry Springer on Thursday; you might just might know the quest.

Virgo (Aug. 23- Sept. 21)
Eat Jello for a whole week, and you might get sick.

Libra (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)
Walk backward down the stairs, and you might fall.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 –Nov. 21)
Do the chicken dance in the café.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22- Dec. 20)
Try not to go to class; you just might get homework.

Capricorn (Dec. 21- Jan 19)
Always floss after eating strawberries.

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Working on cars, is it an obsession or a hobby?

Students on campus take an extreme interest in their cars.

by Jessica Williams
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Top to bottom: Lance Origon's 1994 Ford Thunderbird; Shane Metzler's 1999 Mercury Cougar; Scott Zinkiewicz's 1999 GMC Jimmy

SAINT LEO – Has the movie The Fast and the Furious caused a sudden interest in cars?

Since the movie, students on campus appear to have a real interest in their cars. People are putting their money into increasing the power of their engines, getting neon lights, loud stereos, etc.

Some students have even spent anywhere from $100 to $30,000. Is this insanity or just a new hobby? The car owners enjoy "souping up" their cars, as they would term it.

One such student is Shane Metzler, a senior, who owns a '99 Mercury Cougar. Already he has spent over $2500. He has put two 10" subs, neon lights under the car, and he still has more plans for the future.

When asked why, Metzler stated, "My senior year of high school, one of my really good friends was into customizing car stereos. My mom had a new car, and he saw a ton of potential, so we started customizing her car." Now, years later, Metzler has customized many cars.

Scott Zinkiewicz, a junior, used to compete in stereo competitions with his '99 GMC Jimmy. He spent over $20,000 on stereo equipment for his Jimmy. From his competitions, he was ranked number four in the world for his stereo.

Lance Origon, a senior, owns a '94 Thunderbird. When he lived on campus last semester, his car was kept under a cover. Like other students, Origon has competed with his car for sound quality. Origon's car has been featured on the *Stinger* (a name brand of wiring) website.

When asked about whether the movie, The Fast and the Furious had an influence on Origon, he replied, "I was into cars way before that silly movie. Actually that movie was a document of my life." Well, Origon does not street race, but he makes sure his car looks and sounds its best.

Many people have no idea the complexity of these car audio competitions. People from all over the state, and even the country drive hundreds of miles to enter their cars into competition. There are various competitions: Iasca, db Drag, and USAC. In these competitions, people compete for who produces the loudest and clearest sound.

Two popular car audio competitions are Slam Fest and Spring Break Nationals. Slam Fest is held in the fall, usually around October. It was at the Florida State Fairgrounds last year. It was at the fairgrounds that Origon received third place. Last year at Spring Break Nationals, which is held in Daytona, Origon received eighth place.

Besides car audio competitions, there is also a best of show, which involves the overall car. People judge the car everywhere from under the hood to inside the trunk. They look for the car to be clean, presentable, no wires showing, etc. Basically, they expect the car to be in tip-top condition.

Michael Ruppert, a freshman, has spent over $1000 on his 2001 Honda Prelude. He replaced his taillights with Generation 3 Altezza Euro Lights and put an AMA cold air intake into the engine. In the future, he is getting a Black Widow body kit.

"Ever since I was a kid, I loved cars. I always wanted to build my own car," explained Ruppert.

Before people knock this obsession, remember everyone has a hobby, and this is theirs. Start paying attention to all the time that people put into their cars and watch because you will be amazed at what they do.

The bookstore gets a new look

After many years of tight enclosure, the bookstore is finally getting expanded

by Jessica Williams
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

SAINTLEO - During the first few weeks of the semester, the bookstore is crammed with students. Now, the bookstore is undergoing an expansion that will rid us of claustrophobic feelings.

The expansion calls for the front of the store to be pushed out six feet. The entrance will open up wide like a store in the mall. French doors will replace the current glass doors.

Frank Mezzanini, vice president of business affairs, explains that the expansion calls for "new fixtures, front entrance, paint, lighting, moving the offices to the back to have a better selling space, and moving the checkout to the other side of the store."

With this expansion, the overcrowding will not be so awful. The employees can spread out the various merchandise, and allow more walking space for the customers.

"I am looking forward to the expansion. We will have more area in front of the store to display clothing and other items," explained John Greif, manager of the bookstore.

All this expansion should be completed by the end of April. When asked what if there was a delay, Mezzanini stated that a bookstore annex would be opened. The annex would allow students to purchase books for the summer terms.

"The students should look forward to a cleaner, more appealing store," Greif said.

If students want to see the renovation plans, a set of prints will be posted at the entrance to the bookstore.

This is just one more of many plans that Mezzanini has in store for Saint Leo University.

"In five years, you won't recognize the place," he said.

Study abroad: an experience that will last a lifetime

Take courses in another country for a semester and learn more than you can imagine.

by Jessica Williams
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

SAINT LEO - Rome, Paris, London, oh my! These are just three out of the seven study abroad opportunities available to students.

What more could students ask for then traveling to Europe or Australia, where they can take courses.

"Each of the programs offers students a unique opportunity to learn about a different part of the world," explained Douglas Astolfi, vice president of academic affairs.

The students take courses, which allow them to learn about new cultures and have a new outlook on life as well. All the study abroad sites are affiliated with universities, so the credits transfer and are included in the overall cumulative grade point average.

In order for students to participate in this program they must be juniors, and have approval from both their major department and academic advisor. As for the GPA requirement, students must have a 3.3 cumulative average in order to attend the Australian study abroad experience, whereas the rest require a 2.75 average.

Janet Samancioglu, a senior, studied abroad in Madrid, Spain. She was enrolled in Art History, Spanish Language, Spanish Literature, and Contemporary European Issues. From this experience, Samancioglu said she became more independent.

"I volunteered two times a week at a Spanish school and tutored kindergartners and third graders in English," explained Samancioglu. This was a great experience, since she is an elementary education major.

Astolfi believes that the world is a changing place, but through these study abroad opportunities, students are seeing the world in a new light. By experiencing a different culture, students are learning new communication skills and how to adapt to situations that they will encounter in the future.

"I think that the study abroad opportunity is one of the great secrets at Saint Leo, a set of programs that cost students no more than it would for them to stay on campus but that afford them the opportunity to become enriched, intellectually challenged, and socially mature," stated Astolfi.

"I absolutely loved it," stated Samancioglu, "I would do it again in a heartbeat."

For those students interested, on March 6 at 12:30 in the Lion's Lounge, there will be a Study Abroad Presentation. If students cannot attend, they should contact Paige Ramsey-Hamacher in deChantal or Dr. Astolfi.

A home away from home

Saint Leo is dedicated to helping international students adapt to life in America.

by Johanna Marie Pitts
Special to Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO - The Saint Leo University community helps foster a positive transition for international students to learn and live in an American culture.

In continuing with Saint Leo's dedication to become a leading university of international consequence, the value Saint Leo places on their international students is shown in the way students from 30 different countries feel about studying here and being in America.

With the current international student population at 54, and increasing each year, international student coordinator, Paige Ramsey-Hamacher, has an essential position for bridging the gap between the students' international culture and the Saint Leo culture. The international student has a two day orientation and is assisted with essentials, like obtaining a social security number, obtaining a bank account, reviewing the educational system in America, and discussing the differences in cultures. If Ramsey-Hamacher is unavailable for the student, international student Krysia Scherlinger, who works with her, acts as peer advisor.

"The association has activities to make our international students feel more at home," said Krysia, who is also vice-president of the International Student Association on campus.

A different program is organized monthly. In January, the Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band played during a Caribbean lunch in the McDonald Center. In February, the students took a trip to Splendid China in Orlando to honor the Chinese New Year.

Along with the programs that help international students adapt, the American friends they make are one of the biggest assets. Krysia said they have no trouble fitting in, and friends are made very fast despite the language differences.

"Language difference is not a barrier in making friends," Krysia said.

Most students go home with their American friends for the holidays, which is a valuable way to experience the American culture.

MBA international student, Yingnan Pan, from Changchun, China, said this is her first time in America. Although her rigorous study schedule for the MBA accelerated program does not allow her to stay regularly involved in all international student activities, she will go to Splendid China in February.

With bright eyes and a wide smile, Yingnan reminisces about the Chinese New Year back home.

"This is when I will miss my family the most," she said as she explains that the Chinese New Year is, like our Christmas, the biggest holiday in China.

There is a Chinese New Year's Eve, and on New Year's day, they celebrate by eating Jiao Zi, which are Chinese dumplings. Yingnan said the pronunciation of the word means the old year is now joining with the new year. Traditionally, the day is celebrated with fireworks and a "Big TV Show" with special programs observing the holiday.

When time allows, Yingnan attends as many Saint Leo basketball games as possible. She admires the spirit of the players, who are motivated throughout the entire game, even when losing. Recently, Yingnan got a chance to go to Orlando to watch the Magic play. What she enjoyed most about the difference between American basketball and Chinese basketball is the American spirit and energy felt at these games.

"I am influenced in a good way by their spirit and energy," she said. "Americans are very open-minded and crazy at the basketball games."

Mixing American activities with a little bit of home helps our diverse student population enjoy their time here. Krysia will not graduate for another year, so she will continue to work with the international students next year.

"I love learning about different cultures and understanding other people's cultures," she said.

Arts & Entertainment

MUSIC IN REVIEW

by Mark A. Relano

Billy Joel: Fantasies and Delusions (Op. 1-10)

Music for Solo Piano: Written by Joel - Performed by Richard Joo

Many of you may have been wondering what the heck has "The Piano Man" been up to for the past five or six years. Well, Joel, who has sold close to 100 million albums worldwide, has been lecturing in America's prestigious universities. For a large sum of money, we could probably get him here, too.

On a recent A&E special, Joel joked with his collegiate audience that he was getting paid by universities despite never receiving a high school diploma. Joel was lecturing on writing music, both Pop and Classical. He has classical piano training and is now utilizing this knowledge to create "Contemporary Classical" music, although that sounds like an oxymoron.

Joel has not put out an entire CD of original music since 1993's *River of Dreams*. This new collection of music is very different from his former work: it is a collection of 10 piano pieces. Joel is a piano prodigy, although he does not feel he can play his own classically written music as proficiently as he would like to, hence the inclusion of concert pianist Richard Joo.

I thoroughly take pleasure in listening to *Fantasies and Delusions*. It seems as if Joel has borrowed from all sorts of influences in his life. I can hear traces of other classical compositions within many of the opuses, and there's a brief excerpt of "Ring-Around-the Rosey" in part one of Opus 8: "Innamorato." I can't help but wonder if "Innamorato" was written with Joel's daughter in mind.

Opus 10, "Air (Dublinesque)," is in part, a classical version of Joel's 1989 ballad "And So it Goes." "Air (Dublinesque)" may be my best pick on the disc. The fusion of pop and classical is part of what I like about this CD. It breaks new ground. Perhaps, that's why it's on the top of the classical charts.

Joel's songs are all modern-day masterpieces— melodic, rich, fluid and resonant. Joo plays the compositions with the ear and hands of a piano artisan but with the feeling and soul of a passionate musician. This comes through exquisitely; what Joel has written, Joo has interpreted flawlessly.

Perhaps you're one of those people who say, "Classical music, Bleccchhhh!!!" But maybe this CD could expand your musical mind a bit, especially if you like Joel as a pop artist. You've nothing to lose (but 12 bucks or so) and everything to gain by exploring new auditory frontiers. If you already appreciate classical music and love the piano, then I think you'll fall in love with *Fantasies and Delusions*. It's classical piano with a pop.

Cher: *Living Proof*

Cher has been putting out records since the 1960s. She has experimented with Pop, Traditional, classics, ballads, Rock and Roll, Techno and Dance. The never-aging artist has just released her follow-up to the 1998 multi-platinum selling *Believe* entitled *Living Proof*.

In Cher's latest effort, she continues in the style of *Believe*, except that she maintains the Techno and Dance theme throughout the entire disc, whereas *Believe* had several slower and mid-tempo tracks. *Living Proof* is a mixed blessing. It's a little too formulaic, and while half the tracks are energetic and well-written, the rest are not so special. Moreover, Cher (or her producer) gets a little crazy with the electronically altered vocals. The computerized chorus helped "Believe" to become number one, but on the new CD, just about every song has altered vocals.

I like the first single, "Song for the Lonely," despite it having the same fundamental bass line as "Believe." In a recent interview, Cher said that the song reminded her of U2's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For," which she loved. But you can actually sing the chorus of the Irish quartet's "Who's Gonna Ride Your Wild Horses" to the verse section of "Song for the Lonely." Regardless, it's a hot track and poignant to Cher: she dedicates it to the people affected by the tragedy of September 11th.

My absolute favorite track on *Living Proof* is "The Music's No Good Without You." It's smooth, sultry, danceable and outshines all the other songs by far. Some of my other preferences are "Real Love" (which Cher helps co-write) and "Love is a Lonely Place Without You."

It's no coincidence that most of the good tracks on *Living Proof* are connected to Mark Taylor—the producer, musician, and songwriter responsible for most of *Believe*: Taylor produced most of the tracks on Cher's last CD. But there is no sign of Todd Terry, who also produced tracks on *Believe*.

Terry produced the last three songs on Cher's 1998 CD—the best three in my opinion. Terry's gift as a producer of techno/dance music is evidenced by his unique, pulsating reworking of Bon Jovi's "We All Sleep Alone" and the infectious tracks "Taxi Taxi" and "Love is the Groove." Cher also employs Diane Warren ("How Do I Live Without You") for two tracks on *Living Proof. Believe* had only one written by the prolific songwriter.

Many of the lyrics on Cher's disc are pedestrian, arbitrary or lyrical cliches sung for five decades or more. This wouldn't be as much of a factor if all the tracks were musically sound. But, although some of *Living Proof* is great beats and synthetic genius, there's still the not-so-hot songs lingering with their mediocrity. But if you liked *Believe*, chances are you'll enjoy the new disc.

You can't just ignore Cher, though. I've always loved her unique voice, her beauty, her sense of style and her positive outlook and determination. From "I Got You, Babe" to "Dark Lady," from "Take Me Home" to "If I Could Turn Back Time," Cher has been entertaining us for close to four decades. *Living Proof* may not be her best CD, but it does have some excellent tunes on it. Furthermore, it is living proof that old timers, can, at times, still jam.

MOVIES IN REVIEW

by Janice Burford

Queen of the Damned

There were reviewers who said that the movie was substandard, that Aaliyah was not really acting at all, that it was not related to the book of the same name.

I really doubt these reviewers read Anne Rice's Queen of the Damned.

While director Michael Rymer did take liberties with the book, it was presented in a way an Anne Rice reader would be able to follow, as well as, allow someone not familiar with Anne Rice (except for the Tom Cruise/Brad Pitt "Interview With a Vampire") to follow along as well.

The movie did leave out a chunk of information that is necessary for one to know in order to understand Akasha's (played by Aaliyah) motivations. It also left out the most intriguing part of the vampire lore: their origins. This is vaguely alluded to in the flashbacks Lestat (played by Stuart Townsend) endures when he drinks Akasha's blood. It is also alluded to in the appearance of ancient vampire Maharet (played by Lena Olin). Sadly, Maharet appears once in the body of the movie and co-dominates with Lestat and Akasha in the final act.

One reviewer noted that Aaliyah was more or less "undulating," and that was the most profound acting in the movie. What Aaliyah did with the character Akasha was to show her joy in creating chaos and her intent on ruling the world with Lestat at her side.

Stuart Townsend played the role of Lestat with the air that he was having fun with the role. In an interview with "Entertainment Magazine," Townsend noted that the movie was "great fun" and "campy." While the character of Lestat was throwing the truth about the vampires out into the open, Lestat was also just having fun with his fame. It was a toy for him after his long hibernation in a crypt in New Orleans.

Many reviewers gave this movie a less-than-stellar rating. Yes, it may seem like a sensory overload with the vibrant settings (filmed in Australia) and accompanying soundtrack. However, the movie does play the one thread it chose very well - the rise of the vampire Lestat.

Saint Leo participates in homeless survey of Pasco

by Jay Kubica
Lions' Pride Co-editor

SAINT LEO - Holiday cheer and joy were spread last semester as Saint Leo University students conducted a survey of homeless people in Pasco County.

On November 27, students from the social work major and Dr. Marguerite McInnis's social problems class, and members of the Samaritans combed the hills and valleys of Pasco County for homeless individuals. Armed only with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and care packages filled with necessities, these adventurous volunteers collected vital statistics on the destitute of Pasco County.

The survey, which was conducted for the Pasco County Coalition for the Homeless and coordinated by Drs. Cindy Lee and Marguerite McInnis, indicated that the number of homeless in Pasco County is rising. Since the last survey in 1999, the number of homeless has risen from 1,384 to 2,568. The majority of those counted were residing in shelters, were being evicted from housing and lacked the ability to obtain future housing, or were staying with relatives but could not procure future housing.

Preparation for the survey was intense. Students participating in the survey were adequately prepared for the task. "There was a sensitivity training session that everyone had to attend," Senior Janet Samancioglu, a member of the Samaritans, said.

In addition to sensitivity training, much work was put into making care packages for the homeless. "We were involved in making incentive packing, so when people went out, they had something to give the homeless, Samancioglu explained. "We also had a blanket drive, so we could include blankets with some of the packages."

The task of locating homeless people hidden in the forests and hills proved to be difficult, according to Samancioglu. "They had a difficult time locating homeless people," she said.

While locating homeless people may have proven difficult, those surveyed were friendly. "I would say that the ones that were spoken to were receptive to being surveyed," Samancioglu said.

The results of the homeless survey were given to the Pasco County Coalition for the Homeless and will provide the organization with a larger budget to help the less fortunate with.

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Saint Leo's housing mystery is solved.

by Kelley Touchton
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

SAINT LEO - Where are you going to live next semester? For the past few weeks, many students on campus have been concerned about the newest rumor floating around. The buzz around campus is there might be a shortage of rooms for next semester.

For the past few weeks, students who already live on campus have been hearing that there will be a housing situation next fall. The reason is the incoming freshman class is much larger.

"Our target enrollment for next year is about 278 students, which will be about seven percent more than last year," Gary Bracken, vice president of enrollment, said.

Admissions have already received 75 percent more applications, than what they had received around the same time last year. If applications keep rising at the same speed, Bracken said "they [admissions] will be establishing a waiting list for the first time in the University's history."

There is a positive side to more students on campus.

"There will be more students to participate in existing clubs and organizations and create new ones such as a debate team, chorus and band," Gary Bracken said.

Many students on campus are worried about the issue of overcrowding in the resident halls. The head of resident's life, Mark Stier, assures us there will be no overcrowding.

"We will have space for every student who applies during the housing selection process this spring," Stier said. Stier also made it clear that students who neglect signing up this spring will be on a waiting list.

"Those students who elect not to sign up for a room this spring will probably end up on a waiting list for fall housing," he stated.

Another concern about housing was that resident assistants and student chaplains would have roommates next year. The concern is RAs and chaplains would not have a private place to talk confidentially with a student at any time, day or night. If there is a roommate in the room, this would inevitably defeat the purpose of confidential communication.

Stier said RAs and student chaplains have never been promised their own rooms. Instead, they are given housing scholarships and Resident Life does its best to give them their own rooms.

"If a living space is needed, and we have an empty bed, then of course we would never turn a student away," Stier said.

The bottom line for students that will be living on campus next fall is do not forget to sign up early this spring, or you may get bumped by a prospective student.

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Sports

To Succeed in Spite of Defeat

Despite living in war-torn Bosnia, a Syracuse basketball player succeeds.

by Michael Rothstein
Daily Orange (Syracuse U)

(U-WIRE) SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Growing up in Mostar, Bosnia, Maja Omanovic lived in a country ravaged by war. She can remember before the war, even though she was just a child.

She remembers the first part of the war. The Catholics were throwing grenades at the Muslims and Orthodox, but gave warnings. Everyone would go into the basement, Omanovic recalled, wait for the grenades to stop and then come upstairs and live a relatively normal life. She moved in with her grandmother in nearby Croatia for a little while during the first war, just to ensure safety.

But she also remembers the war in Bosnia she didn't expect. The war that came without warning. The Catholics started the ethnic-cleansing process, dividing Omanovic's home city in half.

"Two days after my birthday on May 7, grenades dropped without any warning," said Omanovic, a center on the Syracuse women's basketball team. "This was 1993. They had all these people in military clothes right across the street. They kept going into Muslim apartments, take women and children, take their husbands and bring them to the airport. They killed all (the men) but they would send women and children across the line. They would throw millions and millions of grenades every single day."

Omanovic was 12.

She stayed in Bosnia for four months after the first attacks of the second war. Her family and the rest of the people in her building quickly ran out of food. The Catholics cut the electricity in her home almost immediately after the first grenades fell. Searching for food, Omanovic said, was risking your life. A sniper sat outside her apartment building.

The building was on the front line dividing Mostar. They were trapped. On one side, the Catholics were throwing the grenades. Getting to safety that way would be almost impossible. On the other side, the Orthodox hid in the mountains and refused to let people pass. It was a no-win situation.

"For the first week, it was terrifying," Omanovic said. "I would cry every time I would hear a grenade which would mean I was crying every second. Then you get used to it. You would see people getting hit and shot right in front of you and you would be like, 'OK.'"

"It's incredible how people could adjust. At first people would say I couldn't deal with it, but you don't know. At first I couldn't deal. Now a grenade could fall right in front of me and it wouldn't be a big deal. It pushes your limits every single day."

Eventually, Omanovic's father was able to negotiate a deal to have the rest of his family escape to Yugoslavia to stay with her mother's parents.

But the patriarch wouldn't follow. He insisted on staying in his home to try and make a better life for those who were stuck there. Despite no formal experience, Zlatko Omanovic took apart his wife's car and built an alarm to alert the building when the Catholics had crossed the line so people could run and hide. He also was attempting to build a generator.

"He was trying to connect the generator to the stream and the grenade fell and it went straight to his heart right on the spot," Omanovic said. "The worst part is, we could have paid enough money for him to get out, but he wouldn't want to. He was not going to run. He said he wanted to protect his family and we're like, 'your family is outside, you have to protect your family outside.' He just wouldn't want to leave."

"He stayed there, he died for his home city and I still don't understand why."

Coping with the death of her father, Maja Omanovic still struggles every day. But she remained tough despite all that was going wrong around her, giving strength to both her mother and her 18-year-old brother, Miran.

"I don't know how I would have been able to survive without her," Miran Omanovic said. "My father was killed and she helped me get over it and continue with my life."

The Omanovics traveled from Bosnia to Yugoslavia. After time in Yugoslavia, the family moved to Canada for nine months after seeking refuge in Holland. It was in the Great White North where Maja and Miran would learn to speak near-fluent English. The war eventually ended and Omanovic moved back to Mostar to discover a country destroyed by the war.

Bosnia became a purgatory, a place where no one had hope. No one expected anything and teen-agers especially turned to drugs.

Yet both Miran and Maja saw more to their lives than Bosnia. They saw what their future could be if they stayed, and the possibility of what could be if they left. So they turned to basketball. While the rest of the Bosnian children were doing drugs, the Omanovic children would be shooting hoops.

"Everyone sat around waiting for something to happen; they weren't making anything happen," Miran Omanovic said. "My sister and I thought we could do better than that, worked hard at school and we ended up in the USA."

Maja left first, but even getting to the United States proved difficult. Her mother borrowed money from friends just to afford her plane ticket to the United States. Originally scouted by both Seton Hall and Siena, Omanovic chose to go to a junior college first because she missed taking her SATs.

Omanovic arrived in the United States and with the help of the two schools, landed at Genesee Community College in Batavia. Omanovic stayed with a host family during her year at Genesee, a year Omanovic described as problematic.

Coming to the United States, Omanovic was led to believe she would be receiving a scholarship to play basketball and everything would be paid for. Omanovic, however, had to pay for books, take 23 credits and add an honors project to scrounge an extra $200 for her scholarship.

"I ended up paying fees and books and a lot of things I shouldn't have been paying for and were supposed to have it given to me," Omanovic said. "There was an academic scholarship and it disappeared."

Enough went on where Omanovic recognized she needed a change. After her year in Batavia, she headed to the Southwest, playing for New Mexico Junior College. The Lady T-Birds had two other players from Bosnia, so Omanovic had heard of the program, sent a tape and was accepted.

Omanovic came into her own at NMJC, averaging 7.4 points and six rebounds during the season. She also flourished in the classroom, garnering academic All-American honors and a 4.0 grade point average. She was so smart, NMJC assistant coach Rusty Laverentz said, she tutored half the basketball team in the year she was there.

"She has done a wonderful job of making something out of her life and be positive and focused," Lady T-Birds coach Ara Baten said. "A lot of kids would have quit. Maja was an academic All-American down here. She's just a really, really bright kid."

Still, Omanovic sensed something wrong. Because of her size, 6-foot-4, her academic prowess and her on-court skills, she was being recruited by many schools. This irked her teammates, leading to a division between her and some teammates who Omanovic said didn't like a foreign player coming in and taking one of their scholarships.

Omanovic went on the move again, this time making the jump to a four-year school. Her finalists were New Mexico and Syracuse.

The Central New York institution was the last school she visited. Omanovic said she was going to go to New Mexico, but fell in love with the players, coaches and Syracuse itself.

In her first year at SU, she has started four games and played in 21, including a four-point, five-rebound performance in the Orangewomen's first-round Big East Tournament win against West Virginia.

But the year has still been tough, as she had to adjust to the rigors of Big East play. Syracuse assistant coach Darren Bennett remembers Omanovic's early practices at Syracuse.

"When we started running at the end of the summer she was very heavy-footed, running on her heel, very flat-footed," Bennett said. "Her two-mile run was a long two-mile run."

Bennett worked with Omanovic in individual workouts every day, helping Omanovic improve and adjust to the more physical Big East conference.

Her teammates also helped Omanovic adjust, and for the first time she said she has real friends, friends which have formed a family across the world from her mother.

Omanovic's brother joined his sister in the United States this year, playing basketball at the Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, Pa. This, though, left Darinka Omanovic totally alone in Bosnia for the first time. The two Omanovic children currently are speaking with the Canadian government to immigrate Darinka to Canada, bringing Omanovic's biological family closer together.

"She managed to help us both after my father's death," said Miran about Darinka. "I felt really bad leaving her there by herself. It was easy when I was with her, but now she's all alone but you feel bad for her. She dedicated her whole life for just the two of us."

The hearing will take place during this summer, but until then, Miran and Maja will have to wait to see their mother.

While Michael Jordan she is not, Omanovic has been proven as an asset to Syracuse. And most of all, Omanovic is happy. After all she has been through in her young life, she definitely deserves some happiness.

"She is an outstanding young woman," Syracuse head coach Marianna Freeman said. "She's the first 4.0 student I've had on my team in a long time. She has been through a lot in her short life and is one of the hardest working people you could ever meet.

"She's a wonderful addition to our family and I wouldn't trade her for the world."